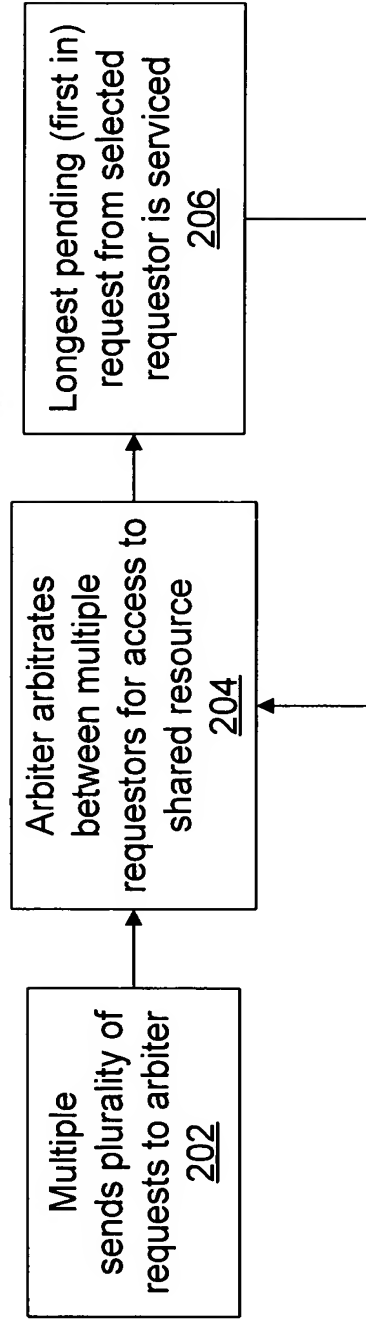


FIG. 1
(Background Art)

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a system 200 for arbitrating access to a shared resource 204. The system 200 includes a plurality of requestors 202, an arbiter 204, and a service unit 206. The requestors 202 send requests to the arbiter 204. The arbiter 204 arbitrates between the requestors 202 for access to the shared resource 204. The service unit 206 services the longest pending request from the selected requestor.

+

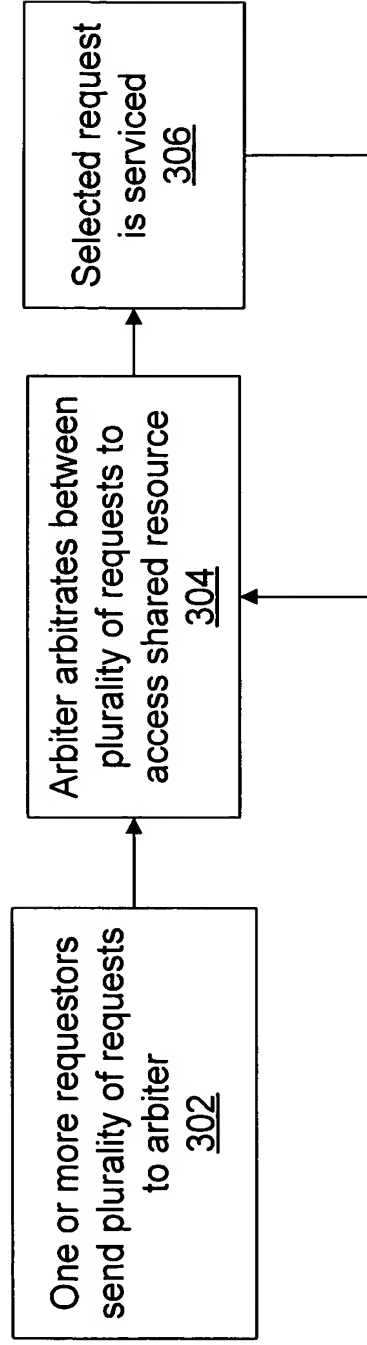


200

FIG. 2
(Background Art)

+

FIG. 3



300

FIG. 3

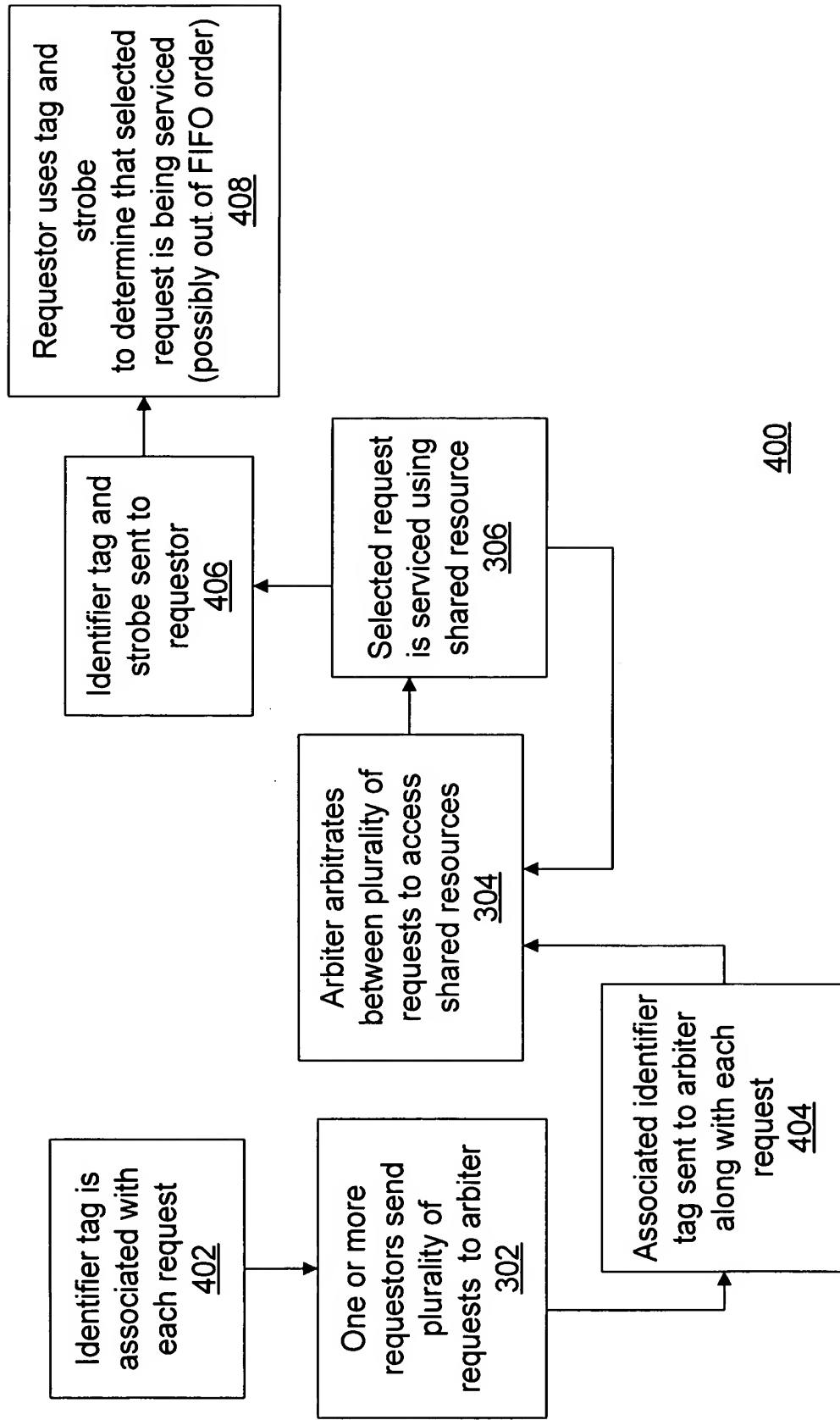


FIG. 4

FIG. 5A

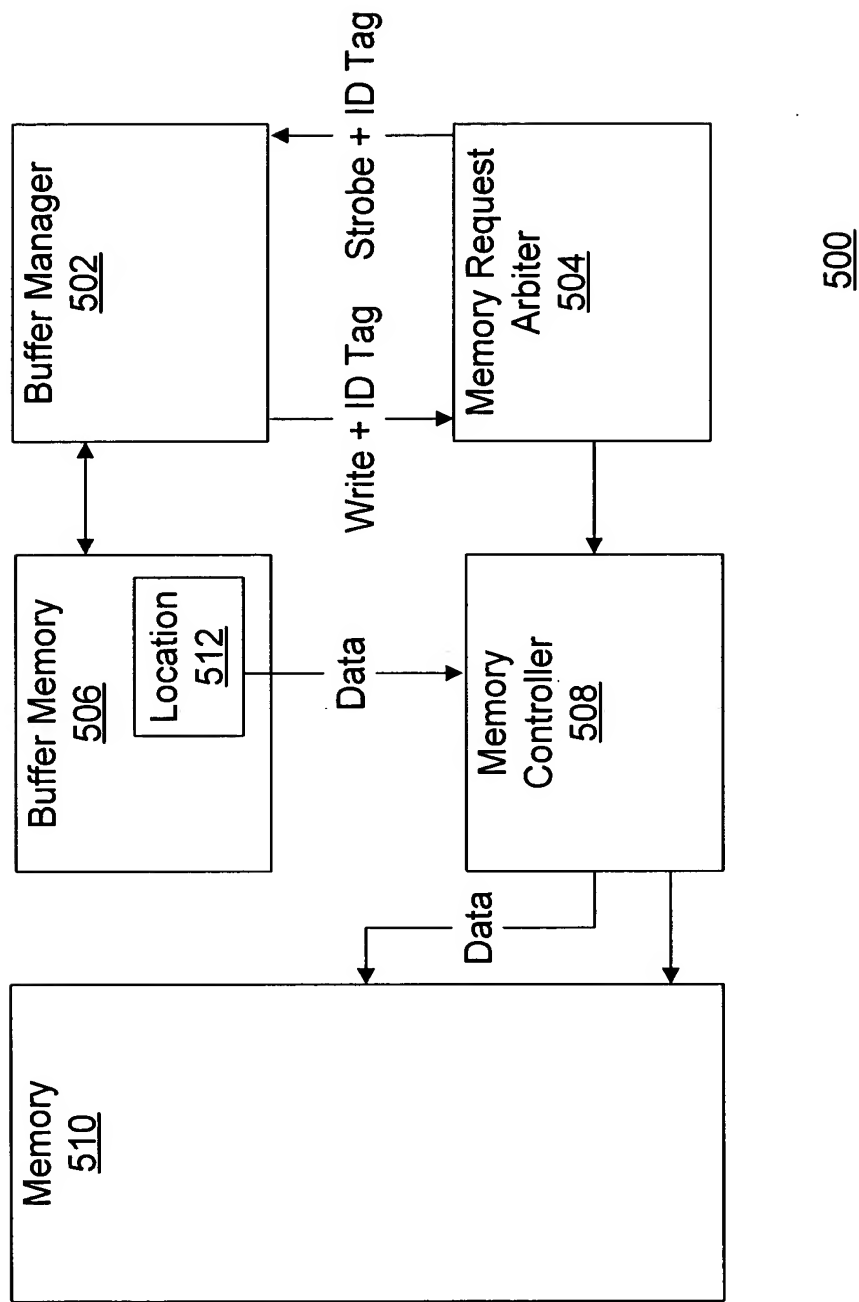
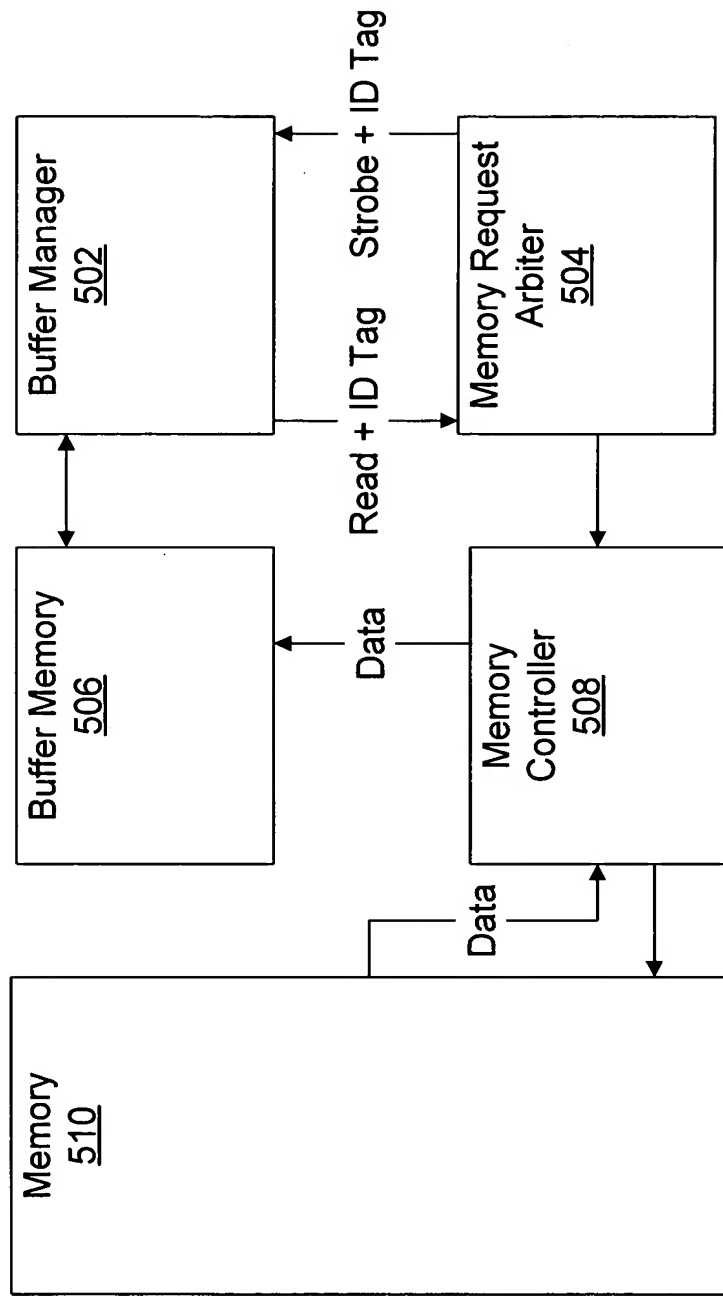


FIG. 5A



500

FIG. 5B